

Minutes for Syringe Advisory Board
February 25, 2019

Members Present: Judy Sousa, Sarah Kerr, Rachel Waldman, Dr. Donald Baird, Sgt. Leonard LaFrance, Greg Sparks, Ex Officio

Members Absent: Aaron Ostrom

Guests: Bryan Coleman, pharmacist

1. Introductions-Member and guest introductions.
2. Role of local pharmacies in syringe distribution and disposal
 - a. Presentation from Bryan Colman
 - Starting in 2015 pharmacies were allowed to sell syringes without prescription. The purpose was to benefit public health; buyers had to be over 18 years of age; initially limited to 30 syringes, can now sell unlimited.
 - Walgreens on Broadway-high use area, sold about 300 syringes daily, typically 30 at a time.
 - CVS-Had sold syringes but discontinued due to problems such as used syringes in parking lot and bathrooms.
 - Cloney's-Initially no limitation on quantity, but the New York Times article showed a view close to Red Cross Pharmacy and decision made to discontinue sales.
 - Walgreens is the only pharmacy still selling syringes.
 - By limiting sales believe it will lead to increase in blood borne pathogens and more needle litter.
 - Little chance of exposure to HIV from used discarded needles.
 - b. Q&A
 - Sarah Kerr asked what are pharmacists doing to encourage proper disposal of needles? Not enough. Do have sharps containers for sale; provide information on disposal, prevention, and treatment.
 - People may buy vs. free due to convenience and self-esteem.
 - Bryan Coleman stated the public health issue-benefit to state and national level, but cost is at the local level. Doesn't know how to fix that since dollars are in different silos. Noted that the benefit for reducing disease transmission is greater than the cost of clean-up.
 - c. Discussion-development of recommendations:
 - Dr. Baird addressed the potential for an ordinance that would require bars/restaurants to provide sharps containers in bathrooms.
 - Discussion regarding whether the board would recommend that the problem areas be mapped, similar to the Orange County study. Could potentially be done by HSU interns.
3. RECOMMENDATIONS
 - Create a Syringe Litter Report (Orange County Model)
 - Initiate an education effort to pursue bars/restaurants to provide sharps containers in restrooms (particularly problem facilities)

- Analyze the potential for a “See, It, Fix It” phone application program for reporting needle waste
- Dr. Baird will approach the Partnership Health Plan to consider a program of syringe litter removal
- City pursue a Product Stewardship Ordinance

4. Other Business

- City will post the Minutes of the board on the city’s website
- Next meeting is March 25
- Update at the City Council meeting on March 5

5. Adjourn